

National SAR Policy

Emergency Locator Transmitters

Presented to: National Transportation Safety Board

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Date: July 17, 2012



Federal Aviation
Administration



Overview

- **Public Law**
- **Current Regulation**
- **FAA Policy**
- **Future?**



Public Law

- **Title 49 US Code 44712 - Emergency Locator Transmitters**
 - (a) **Installation.** – An emergency locator transmitter must be installed on a fixed-wing powered civil aircraft for use in air commerce.
 - (b) and (c) **Non-applications.**
 - (d) **Compliance** – ELT transmits on 121.5/243 or 406 megahertz frequency



Current Regulation

- **Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.207 - Emergency Locator Transmitters.**
- **Must be attached to the airplane:**
 - Minimal damage in a crash
 - As far aft as possible
- **Required for all operations including:**
 - Supplemental air carrier operations under part 121
 - Commercial operator operations under part 125
 - Part 135 operations



Current Regulation

- **Exceptions:**

- Ferry a newly acquired airplane for new ELT installation
- Ferry an airplane with an inoperative ELT for repair
- Scheduled flights by an air carriers
- Training within 50nm radius of the airport
- Design and testing flights
- New aircraft for delivery
- Agricultural Flights



Current Regulation

- **Exceptions (cont):**
 - FAA certificated for R & D Flights
 - Used for showing compliance with regulations, crew training, exhibition, air racing, or market surveys
 - Equipped to carry not more than one person
 - With a maximum payload capacity of more than 18,000 pounds when used in air transportation



FAA Policy

- **Advisory Circular AC 91-44A, Operational and Maintenance Practices for Emergency Locator Transmitters and Receivers**
- **TSO C91a, Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Equipment**
 - Cancelled – May 15, 2012
- **TSO C126a, 406 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT)**
 - Published – December 17, 2008
- **MMEL Policy Letter 120, Revision 1**

FAA Policy

- **FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 6, Chapter 1, Section 1, Part 91 Inspections, Inspect an Executive/Corporate Operator**
 - Paragraph 6-12, ELT installation and battery expiration in aircraft logbook
- **FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 6, Chapter 1, Section 4, Conduct a Part 91 Ramp Inspection**
 - Paragraph 6-101(g)(4), Determine if an ELT is installed and check expiration date of battery.

Additional FAA Resources

- **Aeronautical Information Manual**
 - Paragraph 6-2-5 (a)
- **FAA Safety Briefing Magazine**
 - *Why Should I Buy a 406 MHz ELT?*
- **CAMI Survival Manual**
 - Search and Rescue section
- **FAA Website Link**
 - <http://www.faa.gov/pilots/safety/>

Future?

- **New Technologies**

Title 49 USC 44712 (d)

“...or with other equipment approved by the Secretary...”

Thank you.

